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STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3726th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 December 1996 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Somalia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at the resumption of fighting in Mogadishu, where the latest clashes are taking an increasingly heavy toll in human lives. It is deeply concerned, in particular, at the plight of the civilian population, whose suffering is increased even further by the fighting.

"The Security Council calls on all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to restore an effective ceasefire.

"The Security Council fully supports the efforts of the countries of the region as well as of international and regional organizations, in particular the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States, to facilitate a political settlement of the crisis in Somalia. It appeals to all Somali factions to join in such efforts and to start a process of national reconciliation aimed at the establishment of a broad-based national Government.

"The Council reaffirms its commitment to a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia and encourages the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the situation and to report to the Council on any further development.

"The Security Council reminds once again all States of their obligations to implement fully the general and complete embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992) on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia.

"The Security Council reaffirms its appreciation to all the organizations and individuals who carry out humanitarian activities in Somalia and calls upon all Somali factions to ensure the safety of all the personnel involved."

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